



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Fall 2004
Course:	Economics 405 [Political Economics of Public Policy]	Section:	01
Time:	TR 09:30 ? 10:45	Place:	SA 119
Instructor:	John R. Boyce		
Office:	SS 412	Telephone:	220-5860
Office Hours:	TBA	E-mail:	boyce@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s):

- Dennis C. Mueller (1989), *Public Choice III*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, U.K.. (Required)

Book(s) on Reserve:

- Kenneth Shepsle & Mark S. Bonchek (1997), *Analyzing Politics*. New York: W. W. Norton.
- W. Kip Viscusi, John M. Vernon, and Joseph E. Harrington, Jr. (1995), *Economics of Regulation and Antitrust*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press. (regulation text)

Other Reference Books:

- P. O. Johansson (1991), *An Introduction to Welfare Economics*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge U. Press (a low-level but good text on welfare economics)
- H. Van den Doel & Ben Belthouvan (1993), *Democracy and Welfare Economics*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge U. Press. (a substitute for Johansson)
- Donald Wittman (1995), *The Myth of Democratic Failure*. Chicago: U. Chicago Press. (a liberal's argument for why government is efficient)
- Torsten Persson & Guido Tabellini (2000), *Political Economics: Explaining Economic Policy*, Cambridge,

Massachusetts: MIT Press. (a modern and advanced text)

- Robert D. Cooter (2000), *The Strategic Constitution*, Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton U. Press. (an advanced text on constitutions)
- David Austin Smith & Jeffery Banks (1999), *Positive Political Theory*, Ann Arbor, Michigan: U. Michigan Press. (a modern and advanced text)
- Peter Ordeshook (1986), *Game Theory & Political Theory*, Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge U. Press. (one of the best books on political theory)
- Joe B. Stevens (1993), *The Economics of Collective Choice*, Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press. (an introductory level text to public choice)

Course Outline:

~~90% of the course will be devoted to the following topics, all of which will be compared.~~

Midterm Examination

Grade Determination and Final Examination 25% of total grade

Course Project 25% of total grade

Final Examination Final Examination

The exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, and then converted to letter grades. The course project is marked as a letter grade, whose numerical value is the *midpoint* of the scale below. The course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	100	B	80-84	C-	60-64
A	95-99	B-	75-79	D+	55-59
A-	90-94	C+	70-74	D	50-54
B+	85-89	C	65-69	F	< 50

If the distribution of grades determined using the aforementioned conversion chart appears to be abnormal the instructor reserves the right to change the grade conversion chart if the instructor, *at the instructor's discretion*, feels it is necessary to more fairly represent student achievement.

~~Non-programmable~~

calculators are allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations.

There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination, lasting **3 hours**.

Tests and exams will **not** involve multiple choice questions.

Notes:

Students? Union Vice President Academic:

Laura Schultz

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Society of Undergraduates in Economics (S.U.E.)

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Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work must discuss their work with the Instructor within two weeks of the work being returned to the class.

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333

JRB:pst

2004-07-27